

# UFO POTPOURRI

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## 25 years later, memory of UFO encounter vivid

THORNTON, N.H. (AP) — Betty Hill shows no fear as she walks from a back road onto a wide path that leads into the woods, but the first time she remembers being here was different.

"They dragged me, kicking and screaming," she said of kidnappers who she contends blocked the road, took her and her husband, Barney, out of their car and yanked them into the woods to be examined — in a flying saucer.

The Hills arrived home in Portsmouth 25 years ago today after a drive through the White Mountains, puzzled by stains and tears on Betty's dress, scuffs on Barney's shoes, shiny spots on their car, watches that had stopped and no memory of two hours of the trip.

After the void was filled for them through hypnosis, their account of being kidnapped by beings from another solar system made the Hills immediate celebrities. The book *The Interrupted Journey* tells their story.

"Right here is where they were standing," Hill, 67, said on a recent return to the spot where she says she was captured. "And this is where they took us," she said, heading into the woods.

Until their 1964 hypnosis, the Hills remembered only being followed by a bright object in the night sky as they drove south through New Hampshire from Montreal to Portsmouth, turning off the main road onto a dirt road and stalling out after being confronted by strange men in the road.

They tried to forget about it, but

Betty had nightmares about being captured and Barney's health began to fail. When he didn't respond to medication a doctor suspected emotional problems and suggested hypnosis. During one session Barney mentioned being captured by strange beings. His wife, under separate hypnosis, recounted the same events and the story began to unfold.

The beings, they recalled, approached as Barney tried to restart the car, took them from the car and through the woods to a glowing object in the forest.

"I was fighting," Hill said. "I'm probably the first person in the world who took a sock at them." As evidence, she still has the torn and stained dress she wore that night.

Standing in a clearing that she said was the landing spot, she described a thorough, medical-type examination that, when recalled under hypnosis, evoked terror in her and in Barney, who died in 1969.

She said she and Barney tried repeatedly to retrace their 1961 route but did not find it until about a year after their hypnosis, when they rode through the mountains with relatives searching for a place to camp.

"All of a sudden we got up here and said, 'Oh my God!' We recognized the place immediately. We came down here, stopped the car, jumped out and ran up here, up the path," she said.

Hill is not fazed by people who don't believe her story. "I say, 'You're entitled to your opinion, but if it happens to you, you know who to contact.'"

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## UFO group signs with Tucson firm

The Foundation for UFO Research recently signed a management services contract with Association Managers Inc. (AMI), a Tucson-based association management company.

The foundation is a non-profit tax-exempt corporation founded in 1982 to support UFO research performed by individuals and organizations. One purpose of the foundation is to raise money to help expert UFO investigators.

"One of the perennial problems in UFO research is a lack of funding," said Allen Benz, president of the foundation.

The foundation also aims to make people aware of "the UFO reality," Benz said. "Our premise is that something serious is going on that needs to be studied. WHAT it turns out to be doesn't matter to the foundation."

"Many people get wedded to a theory and pretty soon only see what they want to see," said Edward M. Biebel Jr., assistant to the president. "The foundation does not investigate sightings itself, but does turn reports of sightings over to competent individuals or organizations for investigation."

AMI, Arizona's oldest and largest association management company, is owned and operated by Phillip A. Gutt and Brent L. Davis, and will provide day-to-day business management services and office space for the foundation.

The firm provides similar services for many other Tucson trade, professional and homeowners associations from its offices at 3900 E. Timrod St.

Dennis Weaver and his producer son Rusty have set up a phone hotline in LA that gives news of UFO sightings around the world. By phoning 213-976-UFOS, callers will hear a three-minute tape of up-to-date UFO bulletins, with an introduction by Dennis — and the tape is updated with new information everyday. The star and his son started the project because they strongly believe in UFOs.

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# Fireball

## Many Called To Say They Saw The Light

By Deborah Peterson  
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

A fireball that zoomed across the night sky in St. Louis earlier this month has left behind a blizzard of sorts.

A blizzard of phone calls.

Astronomers in Missouri, Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky report that they got hundreds of phone calls in the aftermath of the fireball, which seared a trail across the night sky on Aug. 2.

After reports of the brilliant object appeared in the Post-Dispatch on Aug. 4, nearly 100 calls and reports were taken by workers at the St. Louis Science Center's star theater alone, according to John G. Wharton, director of the McDonnell Star Theater.

Wharton says he got so many reports that he concluded he actually may have been one of the few people in the area who missed the fireball.

The object probably was a meteor, Wharton said.

Wharton summarized the observations in the St. Louis area and forwarded the report to the Scientific Event Alert Network. The network is a group of museums and astronomers that report phenomena to the Smithsonian Institution.

Marjorie Summers, a spokeswoman for the network in Washington, said Wharton's report was one of about five that she got from Missouri, Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky.

The fireball apparently was unique because it was visible for a longer period and far brighter than most meteors, she said. The object apparently was first spotted in western Kentucky, moving from the south to the north. Summers said.

She said that after trailing across Kentucky, it apparently moved across a corner of Southern Illinois and eastern Missouri before zig-zagging northward toward Chicago and along the Illinois-Indiana border.

Summers said that the Scientific Event Alert Network tries to track down meteors that have made it to Earth so that they can be recovered and observed by scientists at the Smithsonian.

The reports of the fireball sightings will be compiled in the network's monthly bulletin, which will be distributed to about 1,000 astronomers and groups across the country who track meteors, Summers said.

The fireball could have been the size of a pebble — which would be pretty sizable as far as meteors are concerned — and it probably was traveling at least 144,000 mph, Seevers said.

## ITALIAN UFO WAVE

During the summer of 1985, Italy experienced its largest UFO wave since 1978. The rash of sightings began in April and increased steadily throughout the summer.

On April 30, two police officers in their car at Pordenone, said a high speed object zoomed overhead. It was only 1000 feet or so above them.

A nightwatchman in Ancona reported seeing six UFOs on May 5. At 4:40 a.m. he saw the first three over the ocean, flying erratically. Thirty minutes later he saw three more. He described them as large flying things having various colored lights.

In June, Ernesto Pellizzari, a truck driver photographed a disc shaped object. The picture clearly shows the disc, a house and some tree branches. He said the UFO was moving to the west in a stop-start fashion, which allowed him to grab his camera and snap the photo. The flight of the disc was observed by people in three other cities, all verifying what Mr. Pellizzari had seen.

From the northern alps to the island of Sicily, dozens of UFOs zoomed over Italy. Dr. Eduardo Rosso, president of the National Centre for Ufology, said: "We've had hundreds of calls. Ninety percent

were proven to be normal objects such as planes, balloons and other flying things. But 78 were confirmed as unexplainable UFOs."

The pilot of a Greek Olympic Airways Boeing 747 reported a 'near miss' with a UFO while flying at 25,000 feet over Milan in early September. He said the cigar shaped object had passed within 300 feet of the jumbo jet. It looked like a huge missile. Many other reports from across Italy were described in the same way. The Ministry of Defense denied any knowledge of the incidents.

Twenty-eight UFOs were seen doing acrobatics over Trieste for an hour with dozens of witnesses. A man and woman were followed along a road near Milan by a UFO. Another couple reported a landed UFO which emitted a yellow fog that killed the engine of their car. Two Army generals reported a luminous cigar shaped UFO near the Pordenone Army Base. Another couple reported meeting a humanoid from a UFO.

What was the official reaction to all the UFO activity over Italy? A Ministry of Defense official said: "We don't believe in these things and we don't want them in our files."

## Mysterious Blast In Clark County

KAHOKA, Mo. (AP) — A sonic boom or blast caused the ground to shake for about 20 seconds Thursday afternoon in parts of Clark County in extreme northeast Missouri, authorities said.

The Clark County Sheriff's Department received several telephone calls about it, but received no reports of damage or injuries, said a sheriff's deputy.

Dr. Otto Nuttli, professor of geophysics at St. Louis University, said the shaking was caused by some type of sonic boom or blast and was not an earthquake.

Nuttli said the disturbance had registered on seismological equipment at the university, which revealed that the shaking had not been caused by an earthquake. He said such shaking occurs often near areas where there is blasting.

The shaking occurred about 2:30 p.m.

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